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Via Electronic Filing

November 18, 2016

**To: Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554**

**From: James Bress
AST Technology Labs Inc.
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**RE: Notice of ex parte (FCC)
*Petition for Rulemaking Filed by the Telecommunications Industry Association
Regarding Hearing Aid Compatibility Volume Control Requirements*
CG Docket No. 13-46**

***Amendment of the Commission's Rules Governing Hearing Aid-Compatible Mobile
Handsets*
WT Docket No. 07-250**

***Comment Sought on 2010 Review of Hearing Aid Compatibility Regulations,*
WT Docket No. 10-254**

Dear Ms. Dortch,

This notice of ex parte serves as my communication to Susan Bahr of the Federal Communications Commission's (Commission) Consumer and Government Affairs Bureau (CGB). This communication is in reference to a question about hearing aid compatibility in the above-referenced proceedings.

The subject matter is the timing of TIA TR-41.3 engineering subcommittee's plans to publish a standard for the measurement and performance requirements for the volume control of mobile handsets.

TIA TR-41.3 opened a new project to develop this standard which when published will be titled "ANSI/TIA-PN-5050, Telecommunications – Communications Products – Receive Volume Control Requirements for Wireless (Mobile) Devices". ANSI/TIA-PN-5050 will be similar to ANSI/TIA-4965 for Wireline Telephones which uses Conversational Gain as the method to measure volume control gain. It is anticipated that the new standard will include 8 or 10 N "on ear" measurements to estimate performance for when a handset is used with un-aided ear and will also include "loosely

coupled” 2 N measurements to estimate performance for when a handset is used with a hearing aid operating in the microphone mode.

The TR-41.3.14 Accessibility Working Group will have primary responsible for the development of the text of the standard. When the standard’s text is ready, TR41.3.14 is expected to request TR-41.3 to submit the draft standard for a ballot (industry vote) to publish the standard. When the ballot passes, TR-41.3 will vote again to publish the new standard. The current target completion date for publishing the new standard is July 2017. Note, the actual completion date will depend on several factors including:

- The TR41.3.14 working group completing the text of the standard.
- The industry ballot passing (i.e., there is a consensus to approve the ballot).
- The TR41.3 subcommittee voting to publish after the ballot passes.

In my opinion, the biggest risk for delay on the project is if there is not a consensus to approve the ballot.

Pursuant to the Commission’s rules this letter is being electronically filed via ECFS and a copy of this submission is being provided electronically to Ms. Bahr at the FCC.

Respectfully submitted,

James Bress
President
AST Technology Labs Inc.
Chairman, TIA-TR-41

CC:
Susan Bahr (FCC)
Don McKinnon Chairman, TIA-TR-41.3